

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the Specification as filed 16 March 2004 as outlined below:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on p. 8, line 25 and ending on p. 9, line 3, and replace with the following amended paragraph:

25 In a preferred embodiment, the threshold used in step 508 to determine whether speech is present is a dynamic speech detection threshold value, set as a function of the noise detected on the line. For example, if the magnitude for the energy for the line/port exceeds a noise detection threshold value for a predetermined amount of time (e.g., three seconds), then noise is detected and a higher threshold value may be used in step 510 to determine whether the user is speaking. Once noise has been detected, the dynamic threshold value may be set as a function of the magnitude (e.g., audio signal magnitude) of the energy (e.g., audio signal energy) on the line. For example, the dynamic threshold value may be set to a certain value greater than the value of the noise on the line (e.g., the average noise). Each line may employ a different speech detection threshold, since the background noise, and hence noise threshold, on each of the lines may be different.